

11th Lean Management Conference, 14-16 June 2011, Wrocław, Poland

3 days of lectures, seminars and workshops. Almost 350 guests from all over the world. 11th International Lean Management Conference has come to an end.



Prof. Tomasz Koch

Philosophy of slimming down manufacturing processes and lean approach towards non-production environment is growing more and more popular. Organization of subsequent, 11th Lean Management Conference is a proof of its popularity. This year we hosted a record number of almost 350 guests. Meeting of all the interested in experience-sharing took part in Wrocław, on 14-16 June (see chart of percentage of participants according to industry at the end of this report).

The organizers of this event put every effort into making this Conference a source of the latest knowledge and support for its participants in every step of implementation of Lean Thinking in their companies. Best practices in management, Lean Leadership and Lean Management were the most important subjects of this year's edition.



Dr. Michael Ballé.

The first day belonged to the special guests. Among other people, Dr. Michael Ballé (Managing Director of ESG Consultants, co-founder of French Lean Institute, co-author of bestselling *The Gold Mine* and *The Lean Manager*), Orest Fiume (Lean Management Accounting Institute, co-author of *Real Numbers*), John Burton (former director of 3 General Motors plants in Europe), Tomasz Koch and Remigiusz Horbal (Lean Enterprise Institute Polska), Marek Piątkowski (expert in Lean philosophy implementation) and Mike Rother (co-author of two key workbooks on Lean Manufacturing: *Learning to See* and *Creating Continuous Flow* and author of recently published *Toyota Kata*) shared their knowledge during plenary sessions and seminars. After concluding the first day plenary session the latter lecturer spent quite a lot of time signing copies of his *Toyota Kata*, which Polish edition premiered on this very day.



John Burton.



Mike Rother signing copies of the Polish edition of his Toyota Kata book.

The second day consisted of presentations of Lean system implementations in particular companies. Each of participants could choose two out of six case studies. – Big companies with foreign capital are still dominant among followers of Lean in our country but privately held Polish companies are joining us more and more often – says Prof. Tomasz Koch.

GKN Driveline Polska, Timken Polska, HJ Heinz Polska, GEDIA Poland Assembly, Whirlpool Polska, SCA Packaging and General Motors Manufacturing Poland shared their experiences.

Traditionally, on the third day of the Conference its participants could choose between thematic workshops and study tours to companies renown for Lean philosophy implementation. This year the organizers prepared trips to Toyota Motor Manufacturing Poland and Faurecia in Wałbrzych and General Motors Manufacturing Poland in Gliwice.

Big number of participants took interest in Toyota Kata session during which Mike Rother explained Toyota's model of leadership and people management which allows for effective adaptiveness, innovation and gaining permanent competitive advantage.



Orrest Fiume.

Orest Fiume lead a workshop on Lean Accounting. During this workshop he explained how top management and finance directors should transform routine accounting practices into a new system which not only works according to Lean principles but supports Lean practices as well. The



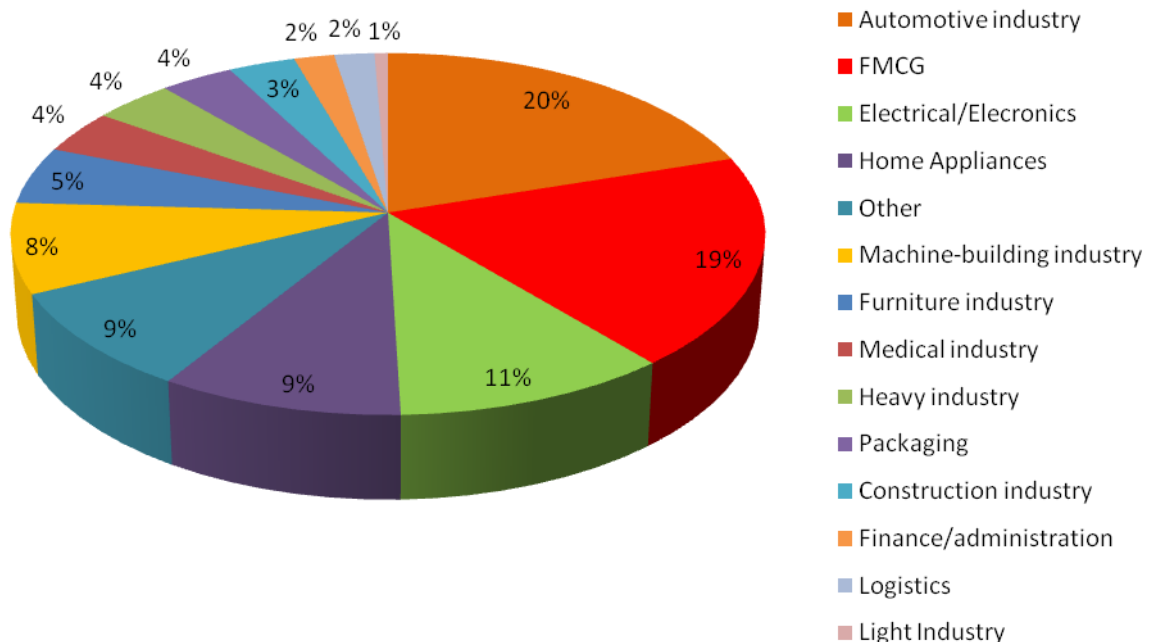
Marek Piatkowski.

third workshop led by Marek Piatkowski was dedicated to coaching methods in A3 application process (A3 method was splendidly described by John Shook in his book *Managing to Learn*). During this workshop its participants learnt about several ways of A3 application and, most of all, how to use this method as change management tool, employees development tool and as general management tool.

Lean philosophy suggests how to effectively satisfy customer's needs, gaining maximum profit with limited resources at the same time. – What matters, is the target, the process that is a way in which you achieve it and people who participate. – explains Prof. Tomasz Koch from Lean Enterprise Institute Polska. However, the main assumption boils down to changing the method of target defining, process organization and involvement of employees. Lean philosophy offers many original methods and techniques of waste elimination but most of all it assumes constant experimenting and cyclical nature of actions according to plan, do, check, adjust order – with full involvement of the team.

Today we would like to invite you to the next, 12th Lean Management Conference which will be held on 29-31 May, 2012.

Please visit our [photo-gallery](#) of the conference



Percentage of 11th Lean Management Conference participants according to industry